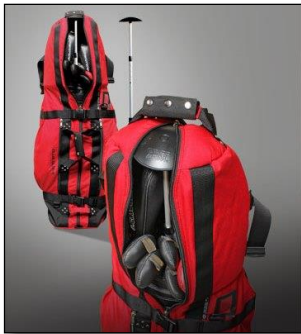


Packing Golf Bags

Travelling with golf clubs - especially internationally - is becoming trickier every day. All the airlines are far stricter with their weight limits and very happy to be able to charge you for exceeding them – they also regularly change the rules! If you have some flexibility in your choice of air carrier spend some time checking the “Golf Bag Policy” section at www.golftravelguide.com. In addition to an at-a-glance interpretation of each airline's golf bag policies and fees, there's a direct link to the airline's official baggage policy. While I can't vouch for how often the information is updated, when I spot-checked a few of the site's listings and compared them to what was published on airlines' own websites, [golftravelguide.com](http://www.golftravelguide.com) was impressively up-to-date. It's great for comparing a lot of airlines' policies at once but, to be absolutely sure, always go to the source. www.luggagelimits.com is another great resource for similar information.



Next, I strongly suggest you consider using a lightweight golf bag and a sturdy travel cover such as the Club Glove. The travel cover probably requires little explanation and you'll really appreciate the lightweight bag every time you check in at an airline counter as well as every time you're loading and unloading the tour van! Here are some options to consider to further protect your clubs in transit:

- tie the heads of the irons together
- remove the heads off your driver, if possible
- stuff the hood with towels & clothes
- use a Club Glove “Stiff Arm” (pictured at left) which serves the same purpose.

The Global Golf Bag Tag “System”:

You may have already received 2 “personalised” Global Golf Bag Tags – if not, give me a call! These are not only a token of our appreciation for allowing us to plan your golf travel, but they also serve a very useful purpose. Attach 1 to your travel cover and the other to your golf bag itself. This identifies you and your fellow travellers as part of the same Global Golf group and helps course, transportation and hotel staff to keep track of BOTH items. You will find them valuable if used in this way.



Golf Club Shipping:

I often get asked about club shipping. I wish I had a better answer for you on this. Here are a couple of websites you can look at with a view to shipping your clubs before and/or after your tour. You will not find any bargains here. The only obvious alternative (apart from carrying them around) is to store them in an airport locker facility...but that only works (obviously) if you are transiting back through the same airport when you begin your return trip.

(1) www.luggageforward.com

(2) www.sportsexpress.com 1 traveller used this service in 2013 to ship clubs from Pinehurst to Melbourne. He found the service excellent & the price of A\$330 door to door to be very reasonable

Club Rentals (currently US only):

Many clients have been asking about the "golf club rental services" you're seeing around the internet. If you're unfamiliar, these are companies that will deliver a new (or newish) set of brand-name clubs to the hotel or golf course of your choice, then pick them up when you're finished playing. Now, I greatly prefer carrying or shipping my own clubs when traveling, but if I were only playing one round of golf I'd consider renting. Lately, I have had clients not renting from the courses or resorts where they are playing – but rather, trying out the aforementioned services. So far, feedback has been good. Logistics (dropoff and pickup) were hassle free and the prices were less than what the resort wanted to charge for comparable clubs. The chart below provides a basic comparison of the services (note: all services & prices are US only at the moment):

Rental Firms	Golf Clubs Away	Club Hub	Golf Rental World
Service:	Clubs delivered and picked up from your hotel or golf course	Clubs delivered and picked up from your hotel or golf course	Clubs delivered and picked up from your hotel or golf course
Locations:	FL, AZ, Myrtle Beach, Hilton Head, Las Vegas, Palm Springs, San Diego	All U.S. States	All U.S. States
Pricing:	1 Day: \$54/day 2 Day: \$39/day 3-7 Days: \$39/day	1 Day: \$65/day 2 Days: \$42.50/day 3-7 Days: \$18-\$35/day	1 Day: \$72-\$103 2 Days: \$57-\$71/day 3-7 Days: \$32-\$58/day
Clubs:	Nike VR S8 Nike SQ Dymo Nike VR	TaylorMade R1 TaylorMade TP TaylorMade RocketBallz TaylorMade RocketBladez	Adams TL, Finesse Wilson Profile, Ultra Comp Callaway Diablo, Edge TaylorMade Burner XD
Specs:	Men's, Women's, R/L handed, length, flex	Mens's, Women's, R/L handed, length, flex	Mens's, Women's, R/L handed, length, flex
Contact:	golfclubsaway.com 877-270-9036	clubhub.com 866-775-3324	golfrentalworld.com 866-300-5909

There are obviously many factors to consider, but from a pure price perspective, renting golf clubs from these outfits for a day (starting at \$55-\$65) can be less expensive than renting from higher-end golf courses and resorts (\$75-\$100 per day) or shipping your clubs roundtrip (starting at about \$80-\$100). Again, I emphasize, **for a day**. If you're playing more golf than that, these rental prices start creeping up to the point where toting or shipping your own clubs is probably the better way to go.